The first teeth generally make their appearance after the third month, and during the period of teething the child is fretful and restless, causing sometimes constitutional disturbances, such as diarrhea, indigestion, etc. Usually, however, no serious results follow, and no unnecessary anxiety need be felt, unless the weather is extremely warm; then there is some danger of summer complaint setting in and seriously complicating matters.

Teeth are generally cut in pairs, and make their appearance first in the front and going backwards until all are complete. It generally takes about two years for a temporary set of children's teeth to come. A child two or three years old should have twenty teeth. After the age of seven they generally begin to loosen and fall out, and permanent teeth take their place.

Lancing the gums is very rarely necessary. There are extreme cases when the condition of the mouth and health of the child demand a physician's lance, but this should not be resorted to unless it is absolutely necessary. When the gums are very much swollen, and the tooth is nearly through, the pains may be relieved by the mother taking a thimble and pressing it down upon the tooth, the sharp edges of the tooth will cut through the swollen flesh, and instant relief will follow. A child in a few hours or a day may be perfectly happy after a severe and trying time of sickness.

The teeth are firmly inserted in sockets of the upper and lower jaw. The permanent teeth which follow the temporary teeth, when complete, are sixteen in each jaw, or thirty-two in all.